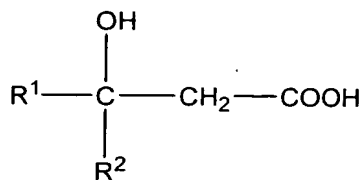


ABSTRACT

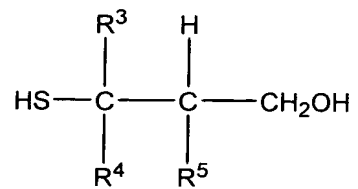
An indicator material for assessing body odor of the present invention comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of a substance (A) which is a β -hydroxycarboxylic acid compound represented by the formula (1), a substance (B) which is a derivative of the compound represented by the formula (1), a substance (C) which is an alcohol compound having a mercapto group at the 3-position represented by the formula (2), and a substance (D) which is a derivative of the compound represented by the formula (2). The present invention also provides a method of producing the compound represented by the formula (2) by incubating perspiration originated from a human in an environment with an oxygen concentration of 10 v/v% or less. The present invention also provides a kit for assessing body odor of a human, wherein the kit for assessing body odor of a human includes a coloration reagent which reacts with β -hydroxycarboxylic acid originated from perspiration of a human.

Formula (1)



wherein R^1 is an alkyl having 1 to 4 carbons; R^2 is a hydrogen atom or an alkyl having 1 to 4 carbons, and the total number of carbons in the formula (1) is 10 or less;

Formula (2)



- 5 wherein R^3 is a hydrogen atom or methyl group; R^4 is an alkyl group having 1 to 3 carbons; and R^5 is a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, the total number of carbons is 8 or less.